

# **BHAGAVAD GITA**

# **CHAPTER 4**

#### JNANA KARMA SANNYASA YOGA

(Renunciation of Action In knowledge)

42 Verses

Chapter 4 - Verse 1

श्रीभगवानुवाच । Śrībhagavānuvāca इमं विवस्वते योगं imaṃ vivasvatē yōgaṃ प्रोक्तवानहमव्ययम् । prōktavānahamavyayam | विवस्वान्मनवे प्राह मनुरिक्ष्वाकवेऽब्रवीत् ॥ ४-१॥ manurikṣvākavē'bravīt || 4-1 ||

**The Blessed Lord said :** I taught this imperishable yoga to Vivasvan; vivasvan taught to Manu; Manu taught it to Iksavaku. [Chapter 4 – Verse 1]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 2

Chapter 4 - Verse 2	
एवं परम्पराप्राप्तम्	ēvaṃ paramparāprāptam
इमं राजर्षयो विदुः ।	imam rājarṣayō viduḥ
स कालेनेह महता	sa kālēnēha mahatā
योगो नष्टः परन्तप ॥ ४-२॥	yōgō naṣṭaḥ parantapa   4-2

This knowledge, handed down thus, in regular succession, the royal sages knew. This yoga, by long lapse of time, has been lost here, O Parantapa (burner of the foes). [Chapter 4 – Verse 2] 1

स एवायं मया तेऽद्य योगः प्रोक्तः पुरातनः ।

भक्तोऽसि मे सखा चेति रहस्यं ह्येतदुत्तमम् ॥ ४-३॥ sa ēvāyaṃ mayā tē'dya yōgaḥ prōktaḥ purātanaḥ | bhaktō'si mē sakhā cēti rahasyaṃ hyētad uttamam ||4-3||

That same ancient yoga has been today taught to you by Me, for you are My devotee and my friend. This is a supreme secret. [Chapter 4 – Verse 3]

# Chapter 4 - Verse 4

अर्जुन उवाच । अपरं भवतो जन्म परं जन्म विवस्वतः । कथमेतद्विजानीयां त्वमादौ प्रोक्तवानिति ॥ ४-४॥ arjuna uvāca
aparam bhavatō janma
param janma vivasvataḥ |
kathamētadvijānīyām
tvamādau prōktavāniti ||4-4||

Arjuna said: Later was your birth, and prior was the birth of Vivasvan (Sun); how am I to understand that you taught this yoga in the beginning? [Chapter 4 – Verse 4]

श्रीभगवानुवाच । बहूनि मे व्यतीतानि जन्मानि तव चार्जुन । तान्यहं वेद सर्वाणि न त्वं वेत्थ परन्तप ॥ ४-५॥

śrībhagavānuvāca
bahūni mē vyatītāni
janmāni tava cārjuna |
tānyahaṃ vēda sarvāṇi
na tvaṃ vēttha parantapa || 4-5 ||

The Blessed Lord said: Many births of Mine have passed as well as yours, O Arjuna; I know them all but you know them not, O Parantapa (scorcher of foes). [Chapter 4 – Verse 5]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 6

अजोऽपि सन्नव्ययात्मा ajō'pi sannavyayātmā
भूतानामीश्वरोऽपि सन् । bhūtānām īśvarō'pi san |
प्रकृतिं स्वामधिष्ठाय prakṛtiṃ svāmadhiṣṭhāya
सम्भवाम्यात्ममायया ॥ ४-६॥ sambhavāmyātmamāyayā || 4-6 ||

Though I am unborn and am of imperishable nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet, ruling over My own nature, I take birth by My own maya. [Chapter 4 – Verse 6]

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत । अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ॥ ४-७॥

yadā yadā hi dharmasya glānirbhavati bhārata | abhyutthānam adharmasya tadātmānaṃ sṛjāmyaham ||4-7||

Whenever there is decay of righteousness, O Bharata, and a rise of unrighteousness, then I manifest Myself. [Chapter 4 – Verse 7]

#### **Chapter 4 - Verse 8**

परित्राणाय साधूनां विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम् । धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ॥ ४-८॥

paritrāṇāya sādhūnāṃ vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām | dharmasaṃsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yugē yugē ||4-8||

For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked and for the establishment of righteousness, I am born in every age. [Chapter 4 – Verse 8]

जन्म कर्म च मे दिव्यम एवं यो वेत्ति तत्त्वतः । त्यत्त्वा देहं पुनर्जन्म नैति मामेति सोऽर्जुन ॥ ४-९॥

janma karma ca mē divyam ēvaṃ yō vētti tattvataḥ | tyaktvā dēhaṃ punarjanma naiti māmēti sō'rjuna ||4-9||

He who thus knows, in true light, My divine birth and action; having abandoned the body, he is not born again; he comes to Me, O Arjuna. [Chapter 4 – Verse 9]

#### **Chapter 4 - Verse 10**

Chapter 4 Verse 10	
वीतरागभयक्रोधा	vītarāgabhayakrōdhā
मन्मया मामुपाश्रिताः ।	manmayā māmupāśritāḥ
बहवो ज्ञानतपसा	bahavō jñānatapasā
पूता मद्भावमागताः ॥ ४-१०॥	pūtā madbhāvam āgatāḥ   4-10

Freed from attachment, fear and anger, absorbed in Me, taking refuge in Me, purified by the fire of knowledge, many have attained My being. [Chapter 4 – Verse 10]

ये यथा मां प्रपद्यन्ते तांस्तथैव भजाम्यहम् । मम वर्त्मानुवर्तन्ते मनुष्याः पार्थ सर्वशः ॥ ४-११॥

yē yathā māṃ prapadyantē
tāṃstathaiva bhajāmyaham |
mama vartmānuvartantē
manuṣyāḥ pārtha sarvaśaḥ || 4-11 ||

In whatever way men approach Me, even so do I reward them; My path do men tread in all ways, O son of Prtha. [Chapter 4 – Verse 11]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 12

काङ्क्षन्तः कर्मणां सिद्धिं	kāṅkṣantaḥ karmaṇāṃ siddhiṃ
यजन्त इह देवताः ।	yajanta iha dēvatāḥ
क्षिप्रं हि मानुषे लोके	kşipram hi mānuşē lōkē
सिद्धिर्भवति कर्मजा ॥ ४-१२॥	siddhirbhavati karmajā    4-12

They, who long for satisfaction from actions in this world, make sacrifices to the gods, because satisfaction is quickly obtained from actions in the world of objects. [Chapter 4 – Verse 12]

चातुर्वण्यं मया सृष्टं गुणकर्मविभागशः । तस्य कर्तारमपि मां विद्यकर्तारमव्ययम् ॥ ४-१३॥

guṇakarmavibhāgaśaḥ| tasya kartāramapi māṃ viddhyakartāramavyayam||4-13||

cāturvarņyam mayā sṛṣṭam

The fourfold caste, has been created by Me, according to the differentiation of guna and Karma; though I am the author thereof, know Me as non-doer and immutable. [Chapter 4 – Verse 13]

# Chapter 4 - Verse 14

न मां कर्माणि लिम्पन्ति न में कर्मफले स्पृहा। इति मां योऽभिजानाति कर्मभिर्न स बध्यते॥ ४-१४॥

na mām karmāṇi limpanti
na mē karmaphalē spṛhā |
iti mām yō'bhijānāti
karmabhirna sa badhyatē || 4-14 ||

Actions do not taint Me, nor have I any desire for the fruits of actions. He who knows Me thus, is not bound by his actions. [Chapter 4 - Verse 14]

एवं ज्ञात्वा कृतं कर्म पूर्वैरिप मुमुक्षुभिः । कुरु कर्मेव तस्मात्त्वं पूर्वैः पूर्वतरं कृतम् ॥ ४-१५॥

ēvam jñātvā kṛtam karma pūrvairapi mumukṣubhiḥ | kuru karmaiva tasmāt tvam pūrvaiḥ pūrvataram kṛtam || 4-15 ||

Having known this, the ancient seekers after freedom, also performed action; therefore, you too, perform action, as did the ancients in the olden times. [Chapter 4 – Verse 15]

#### **Chapter 4 - Verse 16**

किं कर्म किमकर्मेति कवयोऽप्यत्र मोहिताः । तत्ते कर्म प्रवक्ष्यामि यज्ज्ञात्वा मोक्ष्यसेऽशुभात् ॥ ४-१६॥ kim karma kimakarmēti kavayō'pyatra mōhitāḥ | tattē karma pravakṣyāmi yajjñātvā mōkṣyasē'śubhāt || 4-16 ||

What is action? What is inaction? As to this, even the wise are deluded. Therefore, I shall teach you action (the nature of action and inaction), knowing which, you shall be liberated from the evil (of samsara – the wheel of birth and death). [Chapter 4 – Verse 16]

कर्मणो ह्यपि बोद्धव्यं बोद्धव्यं च विकर्मणः । अकर्मणश्च बोद्धव्यं गहना कर्मणो गतिः ॥ ४-१७॥

karmaṇō hyapi bōddhavyam bōddhavyam ca vikarmaṇaḥ | akarmaṇaśca bōddhavyam gahanā karmaṇō gatiḥ ||4-17||

For, verily (the true nature) of right action should be known; also (that) of forbidden (or unlawful) action and of inaction; imponderable is the nature (path) of action.

[Chapter 4 – Verse 17]

# Chapter 4 - Verse 18

 कर्मण्यकर्म यः पश्येद्
 karmanyakarma yah pasyēd

 अकर्मणि च कर्म यः ।
 akarmani ca karma yah |

 स बुद्धिमान्मनुष्येषु
 sa buddhimān manuşyēşu

 स युक्तः कृत्स्त्रकर्मकृत् ॥ ४-१८॥
 sa yuktaḥ kṛtsnakarmakṛt || 4-18 ||

He, who recognises inaction in action and action in inaction is wise among men; he is a yogi and a true performer of all actions. [Chapter 4 – Verse 18]

यस्य सर्वे समारम्भाः yasya sarvē samārambhāḥ कामसङ्खल्पवर्जिताः । kāmasankalpavarjitāh | ज्ञानाग्निदग्धकर्माणं तमाहुः पण्डितं बुधाः ॥ ४-१९॥

jñānāgnidagdhakarmāṇaṃ tamāhuḥ paṇḍitam budhāḥ | 4-19 | |

Whose undertakings are all devoid of desires and purposes, and whose actions have been burnt by the fire of knowledge, him the wise call a sage. [Chapter 4 – Verse 19]

### **Chapter 4 - Verse 20**

त्यक्तवा कर्मफलासङ्गं tyaktvā karmaphalāsangam नित्यतृप्तो निराश्रयः । nityatrptō nirāśrayah | कर्मण्यभिप्रवृत्तोऽपि karmanyabhipravṛttō'pi नैव किञ्चित्करोति सः ॥ ४-२०॥ naiva kiñcit karōti saḥ | | 4-20 ||

Having abandoned attachment to the fruits of action, ever content, depending on nothing, he does not do anything, though engaged in actions. [Chapter 4 – Verse 20]

निराशीर्यतचित्तात्मा त्यक्तसर्वपरिग्रहः। शारीरं केवलं कर्म कुर्वन्नाप्नोति किल्बिषम् ॥ ४-२१॥

nirāśīryatacittātmā tyaktasarvaparigrahah | śārīram kēvalam karma kurvannapnōti kilbişam | 4-21 | |

Without hope (desire), with the mind self controlled, having abandoned all sense of possessions, doing mere bodily action, he incurs no sin. [Chapter 4 – Verse 21]

# **Chapter 4 - Verse 22**

यदच्छालाभसन्तुष्टः द्वन्द्वातीतो विमत्सरः । समः सिद्धावसिद्धौ च कृत्वापि न निबध्यते ॥ ४-२२॥

yadrcchālābhasantuṣṭah dvandvātītō vimatsarah | samah siddhāvasiddhau ca kṛtvā'pi na nibadhyatē | 4-22 | |

Content with what comes to him without effort, free from the pairs of opposites and envy, even-minded in success and failure, though acting he is not bound. [Chapter 4 – Verse 22]

गतसङ्गस्य मुक्तस्य ज्ञानावस्थितचेतसः । यज्ञायाचरतः कर्म समग्रं प्रविलीयते ॥ ४-२३॥

gatasaṅgasya muktasya jñānāvasthitacētasaḥ | yajñāyacarataḥ karma samagraṁ pravilīyatē ||4-23||

Of one who is devoid of attachment, who is liberated, whose mind is established in knowledge, who acts for the sake of sacrifice, all his actions are dissolved. [Chapter 4 – Verse 23]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 24

ब्रह्मार्पणं ब्रह्म हिवः ब्रह्माग्नौ ब्रह्मणा हुतम् । ब्रह्मेव तेन गन्तव्यं ब्रह्मकर्मसमाधिना ॥ ४-२४॥

brahmārpaṇaṁ brahma havih brahmāgnau brahmaṇā hutam | brahmaiva tēna gantavyaṁ brahma karma samādhinā ||4-24||

Brahman is the oblation; Brahman is the clarified butter, and so on, constituting the offerings; by Brahman is the oblation poured into the fire of Brahman; Brahman verily, shall be reached by him who always sees Brahman in all actions. [Chapter 4 – Verse 24]

दैवमेवापरे यज्ञं योगिनः पर्युपासते । ब्रह्माग्नावपरे यज्ञं यज्ञेनैवोपजुह्वति ॥ ४-२५॥

daivamēvāparē yajñaṃ yōginaḥ paryupāsatē | brahmāgnāvaparē yajñaṃ yajñēnaivōpajuhvati || 4-25 ||

Some yogis perform sacrifice to devas alone (deva-yajna); while others offer sacrifice of the Self (i.e. Atman itself) as sacrifice (oblation) by the Self, in the fire of Brahman (Brahma-yajna). [Chapter 4 – Verse 25]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 26

Chapter 4 - Verse 20	
श्रोत्रादीनीन्द्रियाण्यन्ये	śrōtrādīnīndriyāṇyanyē
संयमाग्निषु जुह्वति ।	saṃyamāgniṣu juhvati
शब्दादीन्विषयानन्ये	śabdādīn viṣayānanye
इन्द्रियाग्निषु जुह्वति ॥ ४-२६॥	indriyāgnişu juhvati    4-26

Some again offer hearing and other senses as sacrifice in the fire of restraint; others offer sound and other objects of senses as sacrifice in the fires of the senses. [Chapter 4- Verse 26] $^3$ 

सर्वाणीन्द्रियकर्माणि प्राणकर्माणि चापरे । आत्मसंयमयोगाग्नौ जुह्वति ज्ञानदीपिते ॥ ४-२७॥

sarvāṇīndriyakarmāṇi prāṇakarmāṇi cāparē | ātmasaṃyamayōgāgnau juhvati jñānadīpitē || 4-27 ||

Others again sacrifice all the functions of the senses and the functions of the breath (vital energy) in the fire of the yoga of self-restraint, kindled by knowledge. [Chapter 4 – Verse 27]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 28

द्रव्ययज्ञास्तपोयज्ञाः dravyayajñāstapōyajñāḥ योगयज्ञास्तथापरे । yōgayajñāstathā'parē | स्वाध्यायज्ञानयज्ञाश्च svādhyāyajñānayajñāśca यतयः संशितव्रताः ॥ ४-२८॥ yatayaḥ saṃśitavratāḥ || 4-28 ||

Others again offer wealth, austerity and yoga as sacrifice, while the ascetics of self-restraint and rigid vows offer study of scriptures and knowledge as sacrifice. [Chapter 4 – Verse 28]

अपाने जुह्वति प्राणं प्राणेऽपानं तथापरे । प्राणापानगती रुद्धा प्राणायामपरायणाः ॥ ४-२९॥

apānē juhvati prāņam prāņē'pānam tathā'parē | prāņāpānagatī ruddhvā prāṇāyāmaparāyaṇāḥ ||4-29||

Others offer as sacrifice the outgoing breath in the incoming, and the incoming in the outgoing, restraining the courses of the outgoing and incoming breaths, solely absorbed in the restraint of breath. [Chapter 4 – Verse 29]

#### **Chapter 4 - Verse 30**

अपरे नियताहाराः प्राणान्प्राणेषु जुह्नति । सर्वेऽप्येते यज्ञविदः यज्ञक्षपितकल्मषाः ॥ ४-३०॥

aparē niyatāhārāḥ prāņān prāņēşu juhvati | sarvē'pyētē yajñavidah yajñakşapitakalmaşāḥ | |4-30 | |

Others, with well-regulated diet, offer vital-airs in the Vital-Air. All these are knowers of sacrifice (yajna), whose sins are destroyed by sacrifice (Yajna). [Chapter 4 – Verse 30]

यज्ञिशिष्टामृतभुजः यान्ति ब्रह्म सनातनम् । नायं लोकोऽस्त्ययज्ञस्य कुतोऽन्यः कुरुसत्तम ॥ ४-३१॥

yajñaśiṣṭāmṛtabhujah yānti brahma sanātanam | nāyaṁ lōkō'styayajñasya kutō'nyaḥ kurusattama || 4-31 ||

The eaters of the nectar – remnant of the sacrifice (Yajna) – go to the eternal Brahman. Even this world is not for the non-performer of sacrifice; how then the other (world), O best of the Kurus? [Chapter 4 – Verse 31]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 32

एवं बहुविधा यज्ञाः वितता ब्रह्मणो मुखे । कर्मजान्विद्धि तान्सर्वान् एवं ज्ञात्वा विमोक्ष्यसे ॥ ४-३२॥

vitatā brahmaņō mukhē |
karmajān viddhi tān sarvān
ēvaṁ jñātvā vimōkṣyasē || 4-32 ||

ēvam bahuvidhā yajñāḥ

Thus innumerable sacrifices lie spread out before Brahman (literally at the mouth or face of Brahman), Know them all as born of action, and thus knowing, you shall be liberated. [Chapter 4 – Verse 32]

श्रेयान्द्रव्यमयाद्यज्ञाद् ज्ञानयज्ञः परन्तप । सर्वं कर्माखिलं पार्थ

ज्ञाने परिसमाप्यते ॥ ४-३३॥

entirety, O Partha, culminate in Knowledge. [Chapter 4 – Verse 33]

śrēyān dravyamayādyajñād

jñānayajñaḥ parantapa | sarvam karmākhilam pārtha

jñānē parisamāpyatē | 4-33 | | Superior is knowledge – sacrifice to sacrifice with objects, O Parantapa,. All actions in their

# **Chapter 4 - Verse 34**

तद्विद्धि प्रणिपातेन परिप्रश्लेन सेवया । उपदेक्ष्यन्ति ते ज्ञानं ज्ञानिनस्तत्त्वदर्शिनः ॥ ४-३४॥

tadviddhi praņipātēna paripraśnena sevaya |

upadēksyanti tē jñānam jñāninastattvadarśinah | | 4-34 | |

Know that by long prostration, by question, and service; the wise who have realised the Truth will instruct you in (that) Knowledge. [Chapter 4 – Verse 34]

यज्ज्ञात्वा न पुनर्मोहम् yajjñātvā na punarmōham एवं यास्यसि पाण्डव । येन भूतान्यशेषेण द्रक्ष्यस्यात्मन्यथो मिय ॥ ४-३५॥

ēvam yāsyasi pāņḍava | yēna bhūtānyaśēṣēṇa drakşyasyātmanyathō mayi | 4-35 | |

Knowing that, you shall not, O Pandava, again get deluded like this, and by that, you shall see all beings in your Self, and also in Me. [Chapter 4 – Verse 35]

# **Chapter 4 - Verse 36**

अपि चेदिस पापेभ्यः सर्वेभ्यः पापकृत्तमः । सर्वं ज्ञानप्रवेनेव वृजिनं सन्तरिष्यसि ॥ ४-३६॥

api cēdasi pāpēbhyaḥ sarvēbhyaḥ pāpakṛttamaḥ | sarvam jñānaplavēnaiva vṛjinam santarişyasi | 4-36 | |

Even if you are the most sinful of all sinners, yet you shall verily cross all sins by the raft of Knowledge. [Chapter 4 – Verse 36]

यथैधांसि समिद्धोऽग्निः र्भस्मसात्कुरुतेऽर्जुन । ज्ञानाग्निः सर्वकर्माणि भस्मसात्कुरुते तथा ॥ ४-३७॥

yathaidhāmsi samiddhō'gniḥ bhasmasāt kurutē'rjuna | jñānāgniḥ sarvakarmāņi bhasmasāt kurutē tathā | 4-37 | |

As the blazing fire reduces fuel to ashes, O Arjuna, so does the fire of knowledge reduce all actions to ashes. [Chapter 4 – Verse 37]

Chapter 4 - Verse 38	
न हि ज्ञानेन सदृशं	na hi jñānēna sadṛśaṁ
पवित्रमिह विद्यते ।	pavitramiha vidyatē
तत्स्वयं योगसंसिद्धः	tat svayaṁ yōgasaṁsiddhaḥ
कालेनात्मनि विन्दति ॥ ४-३८॥	kālēna"tmani vindati   4-38

Certainly, there is no purifier in this world like Knowledge. He, who is himself perfected in yoga finds it in the Self in time. [Chapter 4 – Verse 38]

श्रद्धावाँ स्त्रभते ज्ञानं तत्परः संयतेन्द्रियः । ज्ञानं लब्ध्वा परां शान्तिम् अचिरेणाधिगच्छति ॥ ४-३९॥ śraddhāvam labhate jñānam tatparaḥ samyatēndriyaḥ | jñānam labdhvā parām śāntim acirēṇādhigacchati | 4-39 | |

The man who is full of faith, who is devoted to It, and who has subdued the senses, obtains (this) Knowledge; and having obtained knowledge, ere long he goes to the supreme peace. [Chapter 4 – Verse 39]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 40

अज्ञश्चाश्रद्धानश्च ajñaścāśraddadhānaśca संशयात्मा विनश्यति । saṁśayātmā vinaśyati | नायं लोकोऽस्ति न परः nāyaṁ lōkō'sti na parah न सुखं संशयात्मनः ॥ ४-४०॥ na sukhaṁ saṁśayātmanaḥ ||4-40||

The ignorant, the faithless, the doubting-self goes to destruction; there is neither this world, nor the other, nor happiness for the doubter. [Chapter 4 – Verse 40]

योगसंन्यस्तकर्माणं ज्ञानसञ्छिन्नसंशयम् । आत्मवन्तं न कर्माणि निबध्नन्ति धनञ्जय ॥ ४-४१॥

yōgasannyastakarmāṇam jñānasañchinnasamśayam | ātmavantam na karmāṇi nibadhnanti dhanañjaya ||4-41||

He who has renounced actions by yoga, whose doubts are rent asunder by Knowledge, who is poised in the Self as the Self, actions do not bind him, O Dhananjaya. [Chapter 4 – Verse 41]

#### Chapter 4 - Verse 42

तस्मादज्ञानसम्भूतं tasmādajñānasambhūtam हत्स्थं ज्ञानासिनात्मनः । hṛtstham jñānāsinātmanaḥ | छित्त्वैनं संशयं योगम chittvainam samsáayam yōgam आतिष्ठोत्तिष्ठ भारत ॥ ४-४२॥ ātiṣṭhōttiṣṭha bhārata || 4-42 ||

Therefore, with the sword of Knowledge cut asunder the doubt of the Self, born of ignorance, residing in your heart, and take refuge in yoga. Arise, O Bharata. [Chapter 4 – Verse 42]